

of her own 5 had she been born thirty years later, she might, as she herself says, have become a social psychologist, instead of a social investigator But the drive was absolutely authentic Proof of this is in the fact that she practised not only descriptive writing, for the fun of it, she also set out, in the year after her mother's death, to explore, for herself, the unknown world of labour A romantic point of departure was afforded in the possibility of visiting, incognito, so far as they were concerned, her mother's relations in Bacup, weavers living as weavers generally do There she met for the first time many phenomena hitherto unknown, including the Co-operative store, and learned things never forgotten about the actual existence of the poor She also liked her relations, very much as they were This adventurous expedition, sandwiched into a life otherwise occupied with large-scale social obligations and engagements, helped her father in his business affairs, arguments with Comtists and others, and a leading part that ranged over everything that could fit under the shade of economics, politics, philosophy or science, gave a decisive turn to her self-development

It happened that, about this same time, the world of labour was beginning, painfully, to impinge upon the mind of Mr Potter, and talk about it to penetrate the home circle, as it was penetrating that of so many homes in contemporary Britain His interests, again about this time, were deflected from the American to

the British  
market, with the result that Labour came  
to mean to  
him—

"no abstraction at all, but a multitude of restless,  
self-assertive  
and loss-creating fellow-creatures, \who could no  
longer be  
ignored, and therefore had to be studied "

From this point of view then, Mr Potter  
began to take  
a certain unquiet interest in the rent-collecting  
which his  
daughter Kate had for some years been  
pursuing in the